

--5--

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 1-9 as follows.

Please **ADD** claims 10-20 as follows.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims is provided below.

1. (Currently Amended) A sealing device for a tank access opening, ~~in particular on fuel tank filler necks in motor vehicles, characterized in that~~ comprising a ball (5) is displaceably supported inside the tank access opening (3) in such a way that on introduction of a fuel nozzle (10) the ball (5) opens the tank access opening (3).
2. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ball (5) is supported on a guideway, which is aligned at an acute angle (α) to the direction of insertion of the fuel nozzle (10).
3. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ball (5) is guided in a sleeve (7).
4. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a sealing ring (4), against which the ball (5) rests in a sealing position, the sealing ring being ~~is~~ arranged at the access opening (3).
5. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ball a diameter of the ball is greater than the a diameter of the tank access opening (3).

--6--

6. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ball (5) is acted upon by a force ~~and in particular spring-loaded~~ in the direction of the tank access opening (3).
7. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that further comprising~~ a counterweight (19) is assigned to the ball (5) to compensate for acceleration forces.
8. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the counterweight (19) is coupled to the ball (5) by way of a lever (9).
9. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the sealing device (1) takes the form of is a module, ~~which can be fixed~~ fixable to a fuel tank filler neck (2).
10. (New) A sealing device for a tank access opening as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tank access opening is a fuel tank filler neck in motor vehicles.
11. (New) The sealing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the force is a spring-loading in the direction of the tank access opening.
12. (new) The sealing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ball is supported on a guideway.
13. (new) The sealing device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the sleeve includes a recess provided on an underside in a direction towards the fuel tank filler neck.

--7--

14. (new) The sealing device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the spring loading is a compression spring.

15. (new) The sealing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the force is a weight or force-storage devices arranged on a lever.

16. (new) The sealing device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a slide which loads the ball in a direction of the tank access opening.

17. (new) The sealing device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the slide is coupled to a rotatably supported lever.

18. (new) The sealing device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a counterweight, situated at the end of the lever, opposite the slide.

19. (New) A sealing device for a fuel tank filler neck, comprising:
a ball supported on a guideway, which is aligned at an acute angle to a longitudinal extent of the fuel tank filler neck;
a sleeve for guiding the ball, the sleeve having a recess provided on an underside of in a direction towards the fuel tank filler neck;
a sealing ring, against which the ball rests in the sealing position, is arranged at an access opening of the fuel tank filler neck;
means for applying a force upon ball; and
a counterweight assigned to the ball.

Serial No.: Unassigned

(I.A. Filing Date: November 12, 2004 (PCT/DE2004/002510))

--8--

20. (New) The sealing device for a fuel tank filler neck as claimed in claim 19, wherein the means includes a compression spring, a weight or force-storage devices arranged on a lever.